

**CLAIMS:**

1. A method for laser annealing a part comprising the steps of:

providing automated tooling;

providing a laser;

providing a metal part to be annealed;

moving either one of the laser or metal part by the automated tooling relative to a stationary one of the other laser or metal part; and;

supplying power to the laser to heat a portion of the metal part to a predetermined temperature to anneal the portion of the metal part as the laser and metal part move relative to each other.

2. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of providing the metal part comprises providing a metal sheet panel having an upstanding flange with a radial bend therebetween.

3. A method as set forth in claim 2 wherein said step of providing the metal sheet panel comprises providing a metal sheet panel having a thickness of about one millimeter to about three millimeters.

4. A method as set forth in claim 2 wherein said step of providing the metal sheet panel comprises providing a metal sheet panel having radial bend of about five millimeters.

5. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of providing the metal part comprises providing an aluminum sheet panel having an upstanding flange with a radial bend therebetween.

6. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of providing the automated tooling comprises providing a robot with a movable arm.

7. A method as set forth in claim 6 including the step of attaching the laser to the movable arm.

8. A method as set forth in claim 7 wherein said step of moving comprises moving the movable arm and the laser relative to the stationary metal part.

9. A method as set forth in claim 6 including the step of attaching the metal part to the movable arm.

10. A method as set forth in claim 9 wherein said step of moving comprises moving the movable arm and the metal part relative to the stationary laser.

11. A method for laser annealing a part comprising the steps of:

providing a robot having a movable arm;

providing a laser;

providing a metal sheet panel having an upstanding flange with a radial bend to be annealed;

moving either one of the laser or metal sheet panel by the movable arm of the robot relative to a stationary one of the other laser or metal sheet panel; and;

supplying power to the laser to heat the radial bend of the metal sheet panel to a predetermined temperature to anneal the radial bend of the metal sheet panel as the laser and metal sheet panel move relative to each other.

12. A method as set forth in claim 11 wherein said step of providing the metal sheet panel comprises providing a metal sheet panel having a thickness of about one millimeter to about three millimeters.

13. A method as set forth in claim 11 wherein said step of providing the metal sheet panel comprises providing a metal sheet panel having the upstanding flange of about 10.0 millimeters and the radial bend of about 5.0 millimeters.

14. A method as set forth in claim 11 including the step of attaching the laser to the movable arm.

15. A method as set forth in claim 14 wherein said step of moving comprises moving the movable arm and the laser relative to the stationary metal sheet panel.

16. A method as set forth in claim 11 including the step of attaching the metal sheet panel to the movable arm.

17. A method as set forth in claim 16 wherein said step of moving comprises moving the movable arm and the metal sheet panel relative to the stationary laser.

18. A method as set forth in claim 11 wherein said step of providing the metal sheet panel

comprises providing an aluminum sheet panel having an upstanding flange with a radial bend therebetween.

19. A method for laser annealing a sheet panel comprising the steps of:

providing a robot having a movable arm;

providing a laser;

providing an aluminum sheet panel having an upstanding flange with a radial bend to be annealed;

attaching either one of the laser or aluminum sheet to the movable arm of the robot and moving the attached laser or aluminum sheet panel relative to a stationary one of the other laser or aluminum sheet panel; and

supplying power to the laser to heat the radial bend of the aluminum sheet panel to a predetermined temperature to anneal the radial bend of the aluminum sheet panel as the laser and aluminum sheet panel move relative to each other.